

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 014589
ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA:RCHOLBROOKE:JBW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014589

FOR SNEIDER FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (HOLBROOKE), PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT:

REF: SEOUL 0460

1. I LOOK FORWARD WITH GREAT PLEASURE TO WORKING WITH YOU
AND TO SEEING YOU AND LEA AGAIN. KOREA IS CLEARLY GOING TO
DEMAND THOROUGH AND THOUGHTFUL EXAMINATION, AS THE
PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY INDICATED.

2. WE HAVE DISCUSSED HERE AT LENGTH THE DESIRABILITY OF
YOUR COMING TO TOKYO OR MY VISITING YOU IN SEOUL DURING THE
VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP. AT THIS TIME IT IS OUR FEELING THAT
A TRIP BY YOU TO TOKYO WOULD ONLY HEIGHTEN SPECULATION THAT
A DEAL WAS BEING MADE OVER KOREA WITHOUT FULL CONSULTATION
WITH THE KOREANS, WHILE A TRIP BY ME TO SEOUL, SINCE IT
WOULD CONSTITUTE THE ONLY SPIN-OFF TRIP FROM THE VICE
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PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY, FUEL SPECULATION.

3. WE THEREFORE THINK THAT BOTH POSSIBILITIES, THOUGH THEY
HAVE SOME ATTRACTIVE ASPECTS, ARE NOT DESIRABLE. I HOPE
THAT WE CAN TALK ON THE PHONE AT LEAST ON GENERAL MATTERS
WHILE I AM IN TOKYO, AND THAT I CAN SEE YOU SOON, EITHER
IN WASHINGTON OR SEOUL.

4. FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL NOT BE NEGOTIATING ON THIS TRIP BUT RATHER CONVEYING THE PERSONAL INTEREST AND COMMITMENT OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO THE LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES HE IS VISITING. IN REGARD TO KOREA, HE WILL EMPHASIZE THAT NOTHING PRECIPITOUS WILL BE DONE WITH REGARD TO KOREA, THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS TALKED ONLY OF PHASING DOWN GROUND TROOPS WHILE STRENGTHENING ROK ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF. THIS TO BE DONE ONLY IN THE CLOSEST CONSULTATION WITH KOREA AND JAPAN.

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